



# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

2021 SANDRIDGE ROAD • ALDEN, NEW YORK 14004

Rectory Phone: 716-937-6959 • Fax: 716-937-0075

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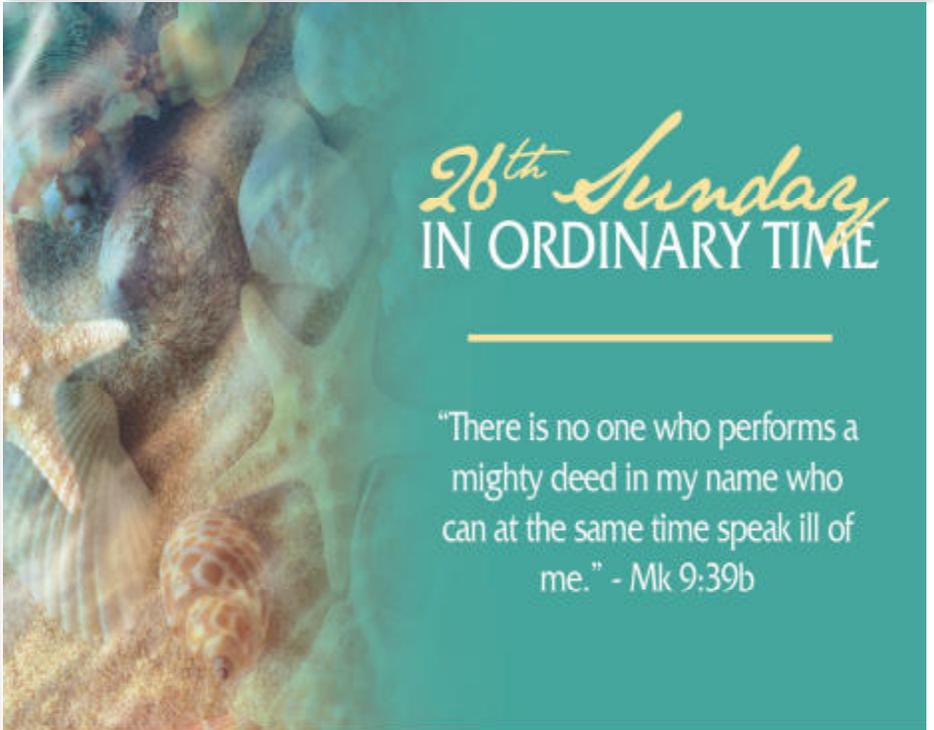
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### MISSION STATEMENT

St. John the Baptist is a faith-filled Catholic Christian community, centered on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Gospel, and His Church. We watch and pray as we respond in loving service to the needs of our greater community. We aspire to grow in holiness, dedicated to life, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, in order to inspire faith and hope in all people.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

### PARISH LIFE

**Pastor:** .....Rev. Daniel J. Serbicki  
**Parochial Vicar:** .....Rev. Patryk G. Sobczyk  
**Priest Moderator:** .....Rev. Msgr. Vincent Becker  
**Sacramental Minister:** .....Rev. James A. Walter  
**Sacramental Minister:** .....Rev. Richard DiGiulio  
**Permanent Deacon:** .....Marc Leaderstorf  
**Permanent Deacon:** .....Peter Donnelly  
**School Principal:** .....Jonna Johnson  
**Business Manager:** .....Kate Wypij  
**Director of Music & Liturgy:** .....Dan Stachelski  
**Administrative Assistant:** .....Stephanie McCormick

**SACRAMENTAL LIFE: WEEKEND MASSES AND SCHOOL MASSES ARE LIVE STREAMED ON OUR WEBSITE & FACEBOOK**

**Saturday Mass** - 4:00 pm  
**Sunday Masses** - 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am  
**Weekdays (Monday-Friday)** - 8:30 am  
**Vigil Mass** - As Announced in the bulletin  
**Holy Day** - As Announced in the bulletin  
**Eucharistic Adoration:** First Fridays ( 9 am - 7 pm)

**Reconciliation:** Every Saturday at 3 pm

**Baptism:** Baptisms are being scheduled with the safety of all in mind. If you have any questions, please call the rectory or email [Baptism@stjohnsalden.org](mailto:Baptism@stjohnsalden.org)

**Marriage:** Arrangements should be made at least 9 months ahead. A Marriage Preparation Program is required.

**Letters of Recommendation:** Given to those who attend Mass regularly, are registered at least a month in the parish, and are baptized and confirmed. Also, married parishioners must be married in the Catholic Church.

**Bulletin Deadline:** Articles and inserts are due 4:00 pm Friday, one week prior to publication.



St. John the Baptist School: 2028 Sandridge Road • Alden, New York 14004  
School Phone: 716-937-9483 • School Fax: 716-937-9794

Faith Formation: 716-937-6959  
Faith Formation Email: [faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org](mailto:faith.formation@stjohnsalden.org)

**New Parishioners:** Please contact the rectory to register.  
**Office Hours are Mon-Fri 9:00 am until 2:00 pm**



## Gospel Mediation

What are the little ones? They are the poor, the marginalized, the women and men at the well, the Zacchaeus' looking for Jesus from a tree, those mired in sin, the blind who want to see, and the lame who want to walk. They are the lepers and the different ones who have been told that they are unclean, and the ones who suffer from abuse and grave injustices and oppression. They are children who want nothing more than to be loved and enjoy celebrating their innocence. These are all the little ones and they are all vulnerable. Life already brings them burdens, we don't need to add to them.

St. Oscar Romero said, "When the church hears the cry of the oppressed it cannot but denounce the social structures that give rise to and perpetuate the misery from which the cry arises." Why are so many people still so gravely hurting? We have the resources and the means to make things better. We choose not to. There are still those things called greed, pride, lust, apathy, jealousy, gluttony, and anger that prevent us from seeing each other and people to be loved and not objects to be used. Is this how God intended things to be?

God loves what is good and upright. It doesn't matter who did it or where it came from. In God's eyes, the end result is always faith, hope, and love. Those will always unite a person with God. We fill our lives with many things that are not good either for ourselves or for others. All of us have to work to discover what it is, exactly, that leads to the world's brokenness. There are people, systems, and ideologies in place that foster oppression and injustice rather than equity and fairness. Sadly, our complacency can be the greatest evil. Turning a blind eye, ignoring the truth, and believing that we are helpless to fix so great a problem, does little to move us closer to the kingdom of God. As members of the Body of Christ, we cannot condone anything that keeps people in misery.

As it is said, charity begins at home. Perhaps a good place to start is with our own households and making sure their foundations are properly laid.

©LP



## Week 4: Season of Creation 2021

Today's readings continue to warn us that our sinfulness is destroying our communities, the human family, and Earth, the supportive and nurturing home of us all. They challenge us to be active and prophetic in working for the New Creation in these times. And they guide us in prayer to ask for greater awareness of our "unknown faults" and of their grave seriousness, to ask for freedom from their destructive power no matter the cost.

So, as we begin, let's enter into the quiet of our spirits ... conscious of God's gift of Earth, its rich diversity of life, ... conscious of its destruction and suffering from overconsumption, exploitation, and the crisis of dangerously-rising temperatures globally ... yet home to millions of people rising up to restore, heal, and save our common home. (Source: [seasonofcreation.org](http://seasonofcreation.org), author James E. Hug, SJ)

## Prayer of Preparation and Invitation & Communion of the Faithful

By: Dan Stachelski III

When we have finished singing the Lamb of God while the Breaking of Bread and Commingling take place, the gifts are about to be distributed. To begin this moment, the priest raises up the broken bread and says: "Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world" [using the same phrase we have just sung, then he continues... ] "Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb." We then pray directly to Christ with the words of the centurion who had asked Jesus to heal his paralyzed son (Matt 8:8): "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed." Dr. Edward Sri, in *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* says, "here we recognize our unworthiness to have Jesus come under the 'roof' of our souls in holy communion. Yet, just as the centurion believed Jesus was able to heal his servant, so do we trust that Jesus can heal us as he becomes the most intimate guest of our soul in the Eucharist."

The priest then receives communion first, not as a right or a privilege, but as a reminder that he is the "servant of all" (Mark 9:35) as leader of the congregation and as appropriate to his priestly office.

The congregation forms a procession while singing with one voice and comes up to receive our Lord. The song's function is to "express the spiritual union of the communicants by means of the unity of their voices, to show gladness of heart, and to bring out more clearly the 'communitarian' character of the procession to receive the Eucharist" (GIRM, 86).

When distributing communion, the formula recorded by St. Ambrose of Milan (d. 397) is used -- Minister: "The Body/Blood of Christ" / Communicant: "Amen" -- which expresses Christ's own words of institution ["This is my body. This is my blood."]. When we reply "amen," we affirm our faith in the presence of Christ in what we are about to receive. We also accept the consequences to join in and become Christ's offering.

**Reflection.** "So if you want to understand the body of Christ, listen to the apostle telling the faithful, 'You, though, are the body of Christ and its members' (1 Cor 12:27). If it is you that are the Body of Christ and its members, it is the mystery meaning you that has been placed on the Lord's table; what you receive is the mystery that means you." (St. Augustine)

## A Word from Today's Scriptures

Jesus said, "There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward." Mark: 9:39-41

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.  
*Prayer starter: Give me a heart, Lord, that listens to the needs of others and responds. Let me reflect you in all that I say and do*

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY: Gn 2:18-24/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [cf. 5]/ Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-1

## PARISH LIFE/EVANGELIZATION

**WHEN:** 7 Consecutive Thursday evenings beginning September 23-November 4, 2021

**WHAT:** A video series entitled **The Search**

**WHERE:** St. Johns' School 6:30-8PM

**WHY:** to help us enkindle wonder as we journey through life's enduring questions.

**\*\*\*\*WHO\*\*\*\* for ALL high school, young adult and adult ages**

**Episode 2: Thursday, September 30, 2021**

**WHO ARE YOU?** This week we look into ourselves to help find the meaning of our own life - Is there more to it than meets the eye?

Please email Deacon Marc &

Delphine at [parishlife@stjohnsalden.org](mailto:parishlife@stjohnsalden.org) to register so that we have the appropriate space available.

**Sponsored by Parish Life/Evangelization**

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

- ◆ **Sweepstakes Tickets are in!** The bi-annual cash-raffle sweepstakes are back for the fall. Tickets are a \$20.00 donation and you can win up to \$4,000.00. If you are interested in being a part of the drawing on October 23rd, tickets are available at either entry of the church, or at the rectory.
  - ◆ **Candy Bar Sale:** St. John's School is doing their yearly sale of Gertrude Hawks candy bars. The cost is \$1.00/bar and the rectory will have a box available. Parishioners do have the option of buying chocolate by the box as well. If interested, please contact the rectory.
- Cookbooks:** The 170th anniversary cookbooks are available for purchase! They were put together with love by a group of our parishioners and would be a great gift for the upcoming holiday season. The books are \$12.00 and are available at the rectory for purchase. Be sure to get yours before we sell out, these are a the last run for a newer piece of St. John's history.



**Please pray for all who are in need:** Ann G, Mackenzie Refermat, Theresa Kwiatkowski, Joe & Susan Hoiden, Nicholas Oddo, Tom Pasek, Susan Abramo, David Nowak, Dorothy Czechowski, Dawn Duncan, Kathy & Leonard Wagner, Nicole Lindner, Terry Moore, Marlene Smith, Jackie Budnik, TSI Group, Marian Butler, James Creighton, Scott Meidenbauer, David Borden, Gary Powers, Christine Mayer, Bill Chapman, Jim Nowinski, Ed Monoco, Joanne Mueller, Marcia Keglar, Ken Warren, Catherine & Maurice Boling, Mitchell, Gail Hans, Marie Boller, Diane Zymowski, Sharon Pfeiffer, Dawn LaPage, Amy Bonamici, Robert Kalczynski, Fred & Helen Polyowicz, Sharon Fisher, Donna Hamm, Ron Soper, Madeleine Newman, Gilbert Fries, Michael McNally, Dolores Kuciel, Theodore Langner, Tom Czechowski, Michael Volk, Beverly & David Pellitteri, Dolores Kuciel, Bruce Hoffman, Joe Adams, Gretchen Smith, Sharon Kruzawski, Dan Labuzetta, Darlene Dahl and All Special Intentions.

## MINISTRY NEWS

- ◆ **Attention Singers and Musicians:** Sunday Music Ministry rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 29th. After a long hiatus due to COVID regulations, we are excited to begin again. The 9:30 am choir will meet from 6-7 pm, and the 11 am group will meet from 7-8 pm. If you sing or play an instrument, please consider sharing your talents with us. Contact our Music Director, Dan for more information at [daniel.stachelski@stjohnsalden.org](mailto:daniel.stachelski@stjohnsalden.org). If you are interested in singing on Saturdays at 4 pm, please see Folk Group director, Tracy Martin.
- ◆ **Respect Life News:** 40 Days For Life 2021 runs from Wednesday, September 22 to Sunday, October 31. Help spread the word about this peaceful & prayerful gathering. St. John's has a time slot from 10-11:00am every Friday, but anyone is welcome to attend at any time. Carpooling is available for those attending the St. John's time slot. It is located at Woman's Services, 2500 Main St. Buffalo. Call Pam 785-7195 if you would like to attend and visit 40 Days For Life on Facebook for more information.
- ◆ **Save the Date:** Come bring your pets to be blessed at 11 am on October 2nd. All pets are welcome to be blessed!

## PARISH NEWS

We have Mass intentions and Sanctuary Light availability in 2021. Both the Sanctuary Light and Mass Intentions can be for the living, for healing prayers, and for the deceased. If you would like to request either, please contact the rectory. We now have cards for healing intentions available to send to families as well as the Mass cards previously available.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

- ◆ **In celebration of the 80th Anniversary of the Diocese of Buffalo Association of the Ladies of Charity,** a Mass of Thanksgiving is being offered by Bishop Michael Fisher on Wednesday, September 29 at 4 pm at Our Lady of Victory National Shrine and Basilica, 767 Ridge Rd., Lackawanna. Members, family and friends welcome! For additional information or any questions, contact Ladies of Charity, 1122 Broadway, Buffalo or call 716-895-4001.
- ◆ **Widow and Widowers: the Companions Sharing the Journey** invite you to join our social group on Fridays at 6:30 pm at St. Bernadette Parish, Msgr. Carey Room of the Parish Ministry Center (enter door #1 in the back), 5930 S. Abbott Rd., Orchard Park. We gather for light refreshments, prayer, conversation and fun. Special events are scheduled. For additional information, call Mary at 716-667-7197.
- ◆ **Assumption Church Bingo** every Tuesday at 7:30 pm and Friday at 7:30 pm. Assumption is located at 435 Amherst St., Buffalo. Masks must be worn and no food can be brought in. Limited concessions are available for purchase. For more information, call 716-875-7626. All are welcome.

### FAITH FORMATION:

We will have a Families of Faith gathering session for grades k-8 on October 2nd & 3rd. The session will be about 45 minutes long not including Mass. If you do not remember what session you signed up for, or can't make it this weekend, please contact the rectory at 716-937-6959 or at [st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com](mailto:st.johnsaldenparish@gmail.com).

The next class for high-school/Confirmation students is October 4th from 7-8:30. If you missed the first class and you have a Confirmation student, please contact the rectory and we will happily make sure you have the materials.

### PRAYER FOR RACIAL HEALING

God of justice, In your wisdom you create all people in your image, without exception.

Through your goodness, open our eyes to see the dignity, beauty, and worth of every human being.

Open our minds to understand that all your children are brothers and sisters in the same human family.

Open our hearts to repent of racist attitudes, behaviors, and speech which demean others.

Open our ears to hear the cries of those wounded by racial discrimination, and their passionate appeals for change.

Strengthen our resolve to make amends for past injustices and to right the wrongs of history.

And fill us with courage that we might seek to heal wounds, build bridges, forgive and be forgiven, and establish peace and equality for all in our communities.

We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

### SCHOOL NEWS

We are continuing to sell Gertrude Hawke Candy bars. We will have these bars available in the rectory and after Masses.

You can also contact any school family, and I am sure that they will be happy to sell you a few. Thank you for supporting our first fundraiser of the year.

**School Office Hours:** Please note that the school office is closed to all visitors during our regular school hours. No one will be permitted into the building during school hours. If you need to contact us, please call 937-9483 or email us at [school.office@stjohnsalden.org](mailto:school.office@stjohnsalden.org). I appreciate your mindful consideration of this change.

**You can like us on Facebook ( St. John the Baptist School Home page or Principal Jonna Johnson Home Page) to see more exciting events and school news**  
[www.stjohnsalden.com](http://www.stjohnsalden.com)

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK**

**Saturday, September 25**

4:00 pm Michael Metz - Mom, brothers, & sisters

**Sunday, September 26 (26th Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

8:00 am Erica Zinter - Nick & Gretchen Smith

9:30 am Ched Oliver - Grandpa & Grandma Kocher

11:00 am Anthony Marlino - Joseph A. Geraci

**Monday, September 20**

8:30 am Tom May - Bill & Fran Lina

**Tuesday, September 21**

8:30 am Marie A. Schalberg - Larry Schalberg

**Wednesday, September 22**

8:30 am Larry Kocher - His Wife

**Thursday, September 23**

8:30 am Stella Ciminelli ( 57th Anniversary) -Family

**Friday, September 24**

8:30 am All Souls

**Saturday, September 25**

4:00pm Michael J. Hopcia - Pat & Ed Heslin

**Sunday, September 26 (26th Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

8:00 am Diana Schlicht - Mary-Ann Heulousch

9:30 am Michael J. Hopcia - Jerry & Carol Sentz

11:00 am All Souls

**FOR THE WEEK OF SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**  
The Sanctuary light is lit to the Glory of God & for  
*Our Parishioners*



**FINANCE**

**WEEKEND OF 9/19/2021**

**SUNDAY COLLECTION**

Total.....\$7,401.00

**FISCAL YEAR TO DATE**

(9/1/2021-8/31/2022).....  
.....\$714,898.00

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION**

Total.....\$1,029.00

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